

Greetings

This edition of the Ambassadors in Action Newsletter provides you with information on recent Ambassador events and a preview of events from September 2006 to March 2007. Your support and participation contributes to the ongoing success of the Ambassador Program. Thank you!

An Unforgettable Learning Experience: Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshop – April 20, 2006

By Irene Posyluzny, HR Advisor, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Have you ever had a learning experience that impacted your approach and appreciation for something or someone?

The opportunity to take part in the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshop at the Oteenow Employment Center provided that experience for me. Gilman Cardinal, Project Officer/ Cultural Advisor with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, hosted the workshop.

I expected a classroom delivery style of government processes, procedures, protocols, and a list of do's and don'ts that would help guide us when embarking on ambassador projects with Aboriginal

people. Instead, we experienced hands-on learning that placed the group directly into Aboriginal culture. The processes and protocols were delivered through the experiencing, understanding and sharing of aboriginal cultural practices and norms.



Facilitator Gilman Cardinal (left) and Elder Camille Kootenay

Gilman introduced us to the Aboriginal culture by purposefully starting the session late, engaging in a smudging ceremony and the offering of tobacco, the presence of a guest elder, the insistence of eating treats and goodies, along with the endless teasing and joking and the sharing of traditional foods (moose stew and bannock). I was quickly whisked into the way the Aboriginal people conduct business and get to know others.

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Gilman was a great teacher; he made everyone feel comfortable and took the time to explain everything as the day progressed. He was there to help us understand the meaning and impact of the different rituals and cultural norms that we would experience when dealing with Aboriginal groups. Gilman reminded us that different groups of people have more in common than we think, and he helped us to understand this throughout the day. He told us that food and the giving of food was an important sign



*Artifacts provided by
Gilman Cardinal*



of respect for guests, and that we should all have a muffin now! (Kind of sounds like my Baba!) Participating in the rituals was a great sign of respect, and for us as visitors to be included, was really an honor. We walked away feeling that our roles as ambassadors had been enriched by this opportunity. The lessons learned will definitely be an asset for each of us as we work with Aboriginals and other cultures in the future.



Networking and enjoying the feast – bannock and stew

*Session Photos by
Denise Houle,
Transport Officer,
Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation.*

(This workshop was organized by the Focus on Aboriginal People Ambassador Sub-Team. Future sessions to be determined.) ◀



Junior Forest Ranger Program Career/Information Fair 2006

On August 16, the Ambassador Program attended the Junior Forest Ranger Career/Information Fair sponsored by Sustainable Resource Development's Junior Forest Ranger Programs and organized by Ambassadors James Atkinson and Gail Greenwood. About 150 students between the ages of 16 and 19 participated in the programs this summer.

The Junior Forest Ranger Program Career/Information Fair was held outdoors at the Cold Creek Staging Camp near Nojack. The 2-day event is held annually to celebrate the end of the Junior Forest Ranger Programs for the summer. The first day provides students with the opportunity to experience the Aboriginal culture and the second day students compete in the "Bull of the Woods" competition.



For the first time, the career fair component was included to provide students with information on educational programs and career opportunities. Students visited booths hosted by the University of Alberta, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics; Lakeland College, School of Environmental Sciences; Jasper National Park, Firesmart Program; Sustainable Resource Development; and the Government of Alberta. Ambassadors from the Government of Alberta informed students on the diversity of careers in government, the specifics of careers in corrections, and the levels of education required for various positions. For information on the Junior Forest Ranger Programs, visit <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/wildfires/forestryyouth/jfr/> ◀



Orientation for New Ambassadors

Welcome new Ambassadors! Ambassadors who are new to their role or who were unable to attend the Orientation session held last September are invited to attend an Orientation Session for New Ambassadors on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

The Orientation session will provide new ambassadors with an overview of the Ambassador Program, the role of Ambassadors, and the Ambassador Toolkit. Resources available to support Ambassadors in their role of promoting the Alberta public service to prospective employees will also be highlighted. Learn how to prepare for career fairs and career forums!

This year Ambassadors are provided with the option of attending the orientation in-person or via a simultaneous teleconference/webcast.

How do I register? A detailed invitation that includes an online registration link was emailed to Ambassadors on August 10. Please register by September 8 using that email link. If you have any questions, please contact your Lead Ambassador or kim.smith@gov.ab.ca. ◀

Career Fairs and Career Forums

Career fairs and career forums are the main avenue for Ambassadors to promote the diverse career opportunities and challenging and rewarding work that the Alberta public service has to offer.

The Ambassador Program corporately sponsors a number of career fairs to promote the APS as a whole and Ambassadors from various ministries participate in these fairs. Some ministries may have their own booths at the career fairs that meet their specific recruitment needs.

Throughout the year a number of other corporate and ministry specific initiatives may come up in addition to the ones listed in this newsletter. There is definitely no shortage of opportunities available for Ambassadors to participate in!

How do I participate? You will receive email invitations from your Lead Ambassador regarding upcoming Ambassador events. Please inform your Lead Ambassador of the ones that interest you and fit with your availability. ◀

**Career Fairs Sponsored by the Ambassador Program for 2006-2007**

Organization	Event	Date
Meet the North Conference, Trade Show, and Career Fair	Career Fair	Monday, May 8/06 Tuesday, May 9/06 Wednesday, May 10/06
National Aboriginal Day	Career Fair, Highlands Junior High School	Wednesday, June 21/06
SRD Junior Forest Ranger Programs	Career / Information Fair	Wednesday, August 16/06
University of Alberta	Careers Day	Wednesday, September 20/06
University of Lethbridge	Career Day	Wednesday, September 27/06
University of Calgary	Careers Day	Thursday, September 28/06
University of Alberta	Health Sciences Career Fair	Saturday, October 21/06
The Career Show	Career Fair	Friday, October 27/06 Saturday, October 28/06
SAIT	Career Fair	Wednesday, November 8/06
Canada Career Week	Career Fair	Friday, November 17/06 Saturday, November 18/06
University of Calgary	Health & Wellness Career Fair	Monday, November 20/06 (tentative)
University of Alberta	Summer Job Fair	Thursday, February 1/07
Concordia University College of Alberta	Career Fair	Wednesday, February 7/07
University of Calgary	Summer Job Fair	Wednesday, February 7/07
Grande Prairie Regional College	Career Fair	Monday, February 12/07
Mount Royal College	Career Fair	March /07
Red Deer College	Career Fair	March /07

**University of Alberta Career Forums – Fall Term 2006-2007**

Area of Study	Date	Time
Computing Science	Tuesday, September 26/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Forestry and Forestry Business Management	Wednesday, September 27/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Thursday, September 28/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Alternative Careers for Education	Tuesday, October 3/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Physics	Wednesday, October 4/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Materials Engineering	Thursday, October 5/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Occupational Therapy	Tuesday, October 10/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Mathematics and Statistical Sciences	Thursday, October 12/06	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Public Health	Thursday, November 2/06	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Molecular Biology	Tuesday, November 7/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Microbiology & Immunology	Wednesday, November 8/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm
Environmental Biology	Thursday, November 9/06	5:00 to 7:00 pm

Note: An invitation to participate in the Winter Term Career Forums will be sent in December. ◀



Alberta Public Service Jobs Website Update - www.gov.ab.ca/jobs

① Student Summer Employment Registration Service

The Student Summer Employment Registration Service was launched on the Alberta Public Service Jobs website on February 28, 2006. The Student Summer Employment Registration Service provides students with an easy and efficient way to submit their resumes into a centralized database for potential summer employment opportunities with us. It promotes the one employer concept as students have a centralized process for registering for summer employment opportunities. Human Resource Offices from each ministry may access the database to find suitable candidates to fill their ministry's summer recruitment needs.

1,857 students submitted their resumes for summer employment through the Registration Service and 7 ministries used the centralized summer resume database to hire 31 summer students.

The Student Summer Employment Registration Service is available from February 1 to August 1 each year. For more information, visit the APS Jobs website and select Student Summer Employment Registration Service <http://www.pao.gov.ab.ca/jobs/Summer.htm>.

② Email a Friend

Job postings on our APS Jobs website can now be emailed to friends! If you see a job posting that might interest someone you know, simply click on the "***Send this posting to a friend***" link at the bottom of the job ad and the ad will be forwarded to him or her instantly!

Remember to tell others about both of these features! ◀

We Want to Hear From You!

We're interested in your thoughts and ideas! If you have a suggestion for the Ambassador Program, or feedback on the newsletter, or if you have an article that you would like to contribute, please contact kim.smith@gov.ab.ca. Articles can be written on various topics including what it's like to be an Ambassador, Ambassador experiences, ministry initiatives, etc.

The next edition of the Ambassadors in Action Newsletter will be Spring 2007.



